



**State of Connecticut**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**February 19, 2015**

**Testimony in Support of HB 6597 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Renovations and Improvements to the Former Sacred Heart Academy in Stamford**

Good Morning Chairman Harley and Perone, Ranking Members Frantz and Camillo. We are writing today in favor of H.B. No. 6597 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Renovations and Improvements to the Former Sacred Heart Academy in Stamford. This legislation would authorize bonds of the state to fund renovations and improvements to the former Sacred Heart Academy in Stamford.

The Rogers Inter-district IB Magnet School receives many applications – over 540 for 88 kindergarten seats in 2014-15. As an Inter-district Magnet School, construction costs will be reimbursed by the CSDE at 75%. Reimbursement for operating costs is estimated to reduce these costs by approximately 33%.

Elementary schools in Stamford are presently crowded and continue to grow. Several are over capacity. As a result, the school district has repurposed existing spaces as classrooms. The need for small instructional spaces for mandated services (Special Ed, instruction for English Language Learners, and remedial instruction for struggling students) is seriously compromised. Inequities exist among schools with regard to the spaces needed for quality instruction.

As the third largest city in the state, soon to be Connecticut's second largest city, we realize it is necessary for Stamford to make an investment in the educational needs of its children. The City is committed to increasing its responsibility to our children's needs by recently purchasing property at 200 Strawberry Hill as an additional resource. This site is very appropriate for use as a new elementary school as it is centrally located and includes 11 acres of green space. As the site of Sacred Heart Academy for more than 100 years, the site is viewed as an educational legacy by many Stamford residents.


An expansion of the Rogers Inter-district International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet School will provide families with an additional facility to support quality education and alleviate crowding in Stamford's elementary schools. I commend this initiative as a worthwhile

investment in Stamford's future and request your support for this endeavor. Thank you for allowing us to speak in support of this legislation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call.

  
Senator Carlo Leone

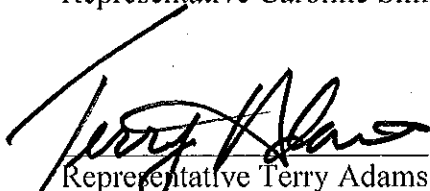
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Representative Dan Fox

  
Representative Livvy Floren

  
Representative William Tong

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Representative Caroline Simmons

  
Representative Patricia "Billie" Miller

  
Representative Terry Adams